

## Appendix O

### Current Facilities at the Fort Meade Recreation Area ACEC and Exemption Area (does not include range improvements)

Facility	Current Condition	Trend	Indicator
<b>Alkali Creek Trailhead</b> (15 acres) contains a doweled rail enclosure fence, graveled parking area, 22 picnic units, 6 fee tent camping units, cabana, a male/female vault toilet, drinking water, three panel informational kiosk, fee tube, sign with fee information, walking bridge crossing Alkali Creek, host site with concrete pad, electricity, phone, septic system, and storage shed.	Good	Use Increasing	Visitor Numbers
<b>Alkali Creek Horsecamp</b> (11 acres) this equestrian campground contains a ¼ mile gravel access road, a doweled rail enclosure fence, 6 fee camp units with tables, fire rings, grills, informational kiosk, tie lines, cabana, water, and 2 vault toilets.	Good	Use Increasing	Visitor Numbers
<b>Fort Meade Trailhead</b> is a day use graveled parking area which serves as a trailhead for the Centennial Trail. It has a three panel informational kiosk, and interpretive sign with information about Camp Fechner, and rails to tie up horses.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers
<b>Fort Meade Reservoir Enclosure</b> (50 acres) contains a ½ mile access road, graveled parking area, 2 picnic tables, unisex vault toilet, barrier posts, buck and pole fence, and an informational sign panel.	Fair	Decrease due to drought	Visitor Numbers
<b>Muzzleloader Range</b> (8 acres) is authorized through a Recreation and Public Purposes Lease to the Muzzleloaders of the Black Hills. Several backstops have been erected to hold targets and absorb bullets. Access is by fording Bear Butte Creek.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers
<b>Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Chapel</b> (5 acres) site is authorized through a Recreation and Public Purposes Lease to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. It contains picnic facilities with water and male/female vault toilets. Water is supplied to campgrounds from an 1100 foot well drilled into the Madison aquifer. The well house on the chapel grounds is constructed from concrete and contains the electrical panel and water storage tank.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers
<b>Fort Meade Backcountry Byway</b> (4.5 miles) graveled road running through the south unit of FMRA; designated a byway on 7/21/1989.	Fair	Increasing	Visitor Numbers
<b>Centennial Trail</b> – twelve miles of this 112 mile interagency trail cross the FMRA. The Centennial trail was approved for designation as a National Recreation Trail on 6/13/1996.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers
<b>Alkali Creek Nature Trail</b> (5/8 mile) interpreted trail through riparian, mid-grass prairie, pine, and hardwood vegetation.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers
<b>VFW Hiking Trail</b> (½ mile) trail along Alkali Creek connecting the VFW Chapel Site to Alkali Creek Recreation Site.	Good	Steady	Visitor Numbers

## Recreation Area Water Systems

Four water systems are located at Fort Meade ACEC:

1. The Bear Butte Lease (north of State Highway 34) has a well house and a pipeline that provides water to water tanks throughout the lease. The well house is a concrete block building that houses the electrical system and a pump for a well 35 feet deep. The non-potable water system for livestock has approximately 27,000 feet of waterline.
2. The Fort Meade Lease (south of Highway 34) has a well and pipeline that provide water to the portion of the lease. The range water system has a concrete well house located on the south side of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Memorial Chapel grounds and houses the other two systems that include: the electric and pump system for a cistern fed by the Alkali Creek drainage. This non-potable livestock water system has approximately 25,000 feet of pipeline.
3. The well and pump house for the recreation water system is also located on the VFW Chapel grounds. This system provides potable water for the VFW Chapel, the Alkali Creek Recreation Site and adjoining Horse Camp, and two range water tanks located near the Blucksberg Subdivision. The well is approximately 1,100 feet deep and pumps from about 875 feet. The system's water lines have a total length of about 12,000 feet.
4. A fourth water system was added in June 2010 as an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) project. This project is located south of State Highway 34. The system taps potable water from an existing 8-inch pipe on VA property and delivers it to a hydrant and watering trough at the Centennial Trail's Fort Meade Trailhead (see Section 3.2.3, Recreation). The system's length is some 550 feet. The City of Sturgis will eventually tap the line to provide drinking and irrigation water to an adjoining athletic field.

## Power and Phone Lines

Short underground power lines on the VFW Chapel grounds provide power to the range and recreation well houses, the chapel, the VFW outdoor toilet, and individual power posts for travel trailers and recreation vehicles in the VFW's parking lot. An additional underground power line about 2,000 feet in length provides power to the campground host's site at Alkali Creek Recreation Site. The power line is in the same trench as the host site phone line for most of its length.

The host site phone line, about 2,250 feet long, is located beside the Backcountry Byway from the Byway's south end near the VFW Chapel to the recreation site's west entrance. It then follows the access road to the host's campsite.

## Buildings

The 1985 SD RMP/EIS provides no direction about how to manage buildings, but the 1996 Fort Meade ACEC Plan mentions the ACEC's three historical structures. Buildings presently owned or leased by the BLM are maintained for office space, storage purposes, sheltering equipment, recreation site improvement, and protecting wells.

## Historic Structures

Fort Meade ACEC has three historic structures:

The Long Stone Building is located near the Centennial Trail and the Fort Meade Backcountry Byway. It has seven rooms of similar size and served as equipment storage for the nearby machine gun range. From what BLM can determine, it was constructed by the CCC or the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the late 1930s or early 1940s. The stone building probably replaced a smaller wood structure which stood about 50 yards to the northeast that served the same purpose.

Two brick storage buildings known as the “powder houses” are co-located on BLM-managed land south of the VA complex. The smaller of the two was probably built in the early 1900s when most of Fort Meade’s buildings were constructed. The larger powder house building was probably built just before WWII. Both buildings are used by the BLM for storing fire equipment, signs, and recreation supplies.

#### Exemption Area structures:

Three Homestake Mining Company explosive storage buildings which were built in the early 1900s are located in the Exemption Area near Ruby Flats. They are single bay, brick construction buildings with outside dimensions of 20’ X 60.’ When originally constructed, the houses had full length loading docks and the entire site had its own railroad spur line. These buildings are kept, maintained and secured, but are not currently used. The basement of the house where the site’s caretaker lived is located a short distance away in Ruby Flats. The Little Elk Ditch, also known as the “Old Abe Aqueduct” (which supplied water to the Homestake Mine and the City of Lead) is near Ruby Flats and Englewood. It was originally an open flume but was converted to ceramic tile pipe during the late 1920s or early 1930s. The aqueduct remains in use and continues to provide water to Lead.

For more detail on management of these historic structures, see the Cultural Resources section of Chapter 3 and Appendix P).

<b>Historic Buildings/Structures</b>	<b>Current Condition</b>	<b>Trend</b>	<b>Indicator</b>
Fort Meade-Long Stone Building Stone Fence	Good		Condition Assessment
Fort Meade – Large Powder house	Good		Condition Assessment
Fort Meade – Small Powder house	Good		Condition Assessment
Fort Meade - Cavalry Jumps North and South	Good		Condition Assessment
Exemption Area -Homestake Powder houses (3) near Ruby Flats and Mickelson Trail	Fair		Condition Assessment

## **Recreation Facilities**

Twelve structures or site developments related to recreation are located at the Fort Meade ACEC. (1, 2, and 3) Three are identical vault toilet structures of concrete construction. One is the unisex toilet located at the Fort Meade Reservoir and the other two are the male and female toilets at the Horse Camp. (4) A double male/female vault toilet structure is located at the Alkali Creek Recreation Site. (5) The Campground Host Site has a concrete parking pad and gravel driveway, and phone and power posts. The Host Site’s waterline is part of the “recreation” water system. (6 and 7) The Alkali Creek Recreation Site and Horse Camp each have identical 10’ x 20’ picnic shelters, basically open wooden pole barn structures with metal roofs. (8) A small wooden storage building located at the Host Site for seasonal equipment storage and supplies. (9) A wooden storage shed owned by the BLM is located on the Black Hills National Cemetery grounds. It provides winter storage for the lawn tractors, wheelbarrows, and tools used by the campground host. (10, 11 and 12) The remaining three structures are bridges. A bridge with reinforced concrete abutments and deck at the Alkali Creek Recreation Site spans the creek and provides access to most of the picnic area and the nature trail. It was constructed in 1995 to replace a pathway over a culvert which was displaced by a flood. The Horse Camp access road has a heavy timber bridge across Alkali Creek. During 2008, it replaced a gravel road and culvert which was washed away by high water. The last bridge, a large diameter log with a flat walking surface and handrails, spans Bear Butte Creek on the Centennial Trail. It was constructed as a National Public Lands Day project in June 2009. The toilets and the bridge at Alkali Creek Recreation Site should have the longest lifespan followed by the Host Site, picnic shelters and the bridge at the Horse Camp. The small prefabricated wooden storage buildings at the National Cemetery and the Host Site would have the least. The potential lifespan of the single log bridge over Bear Butte Creek is unknown.

## **Hazard Class Dams**

The South Dakota Field Office has only two hazard class dam sites. Both are located in Northern Butte County. The Battle Creek Dam is presently holding water but the Alkali Creek Dam has been breached.

## **Water Impoundments**

Other dams and water impoundments are found in the planning area; most are range improvements which either provide longer term livestock water or control erosion. Ducks Unlimited along with other entities has cooperated with the BLM on structures benefiting wildlife.